

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. Support for the amendment to the claim may be found, for example, in the specification at page 9, lines 9-15 and Figure 4. No new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. JP A 2000-007455 to Takashi et al. ("Takashi"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Without conceding the propriety of the rejections, independent claim 1 is amended to more clearly recite various novel features of the claimed invention, with particular attention to the Examiner's comments. Specifically, claim 1 is amended to clarify that "the main pressurization is performed by use of pressing jigs, wherein said jigs include pressing ribs in a number equivalent to the number of porous honeycomb segments located on the outermost layer of the honeycomb structure, and wherein said pressing ribs are provided on a pressing surface of the pressing jig so as to abut on approximate centers of the surfaces of the porous

honeycomb segments on the outermost layer of the honeycomb structure." Takashi fails to teach or suggest such a feature.

The specification discloses that when pressing jigs having a configuration as recited in claim 1 are used in the claimed method, it is possible to avoid protruded adhesive from attaching to the pressing surface of the pressing jig. *See* page 9, lines 19-24.

Nowhere does Takashi disclose or suggest such a feature or the benefit from having such a feature.

Accordingly, Takashi does not disclose all of the features of the claimed invention and, thus, does not anticipate claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejects claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Takashi in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,115,178 to Cone et al. ("Cone"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

For the reasons discussed above, Takashi fails to teach all the features of claim 1. Cone is cited only for limitations of dependant claims 2 and 3. Regardless of its asserted disclosures, Cone does not cure the deficiencies of Takashi with respect to claim 1. Therefore, Takashi and Cone, considered either separately or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all of the features of independent claim 1.


Claim 1 would not have been rendered obvious by Takashi and Cone. Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 and, thus, also would not have been rendered obvious by Takashi and Cone. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Julie Tabarovsky
Registration No. 60,808

JAO:JXT

Date: August 9, 2007

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
